

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
June 12, 2008 – **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Karl Schrade, David Hilde, Mike Schlegel-Vice Chairman

Committee Members Absent: Dan Siderius

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Operations Manager Guy Foy, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky and Juanita Nelson

Public Attendees: Gabe Gluth, Mark Gluth, Paul Abel, Whitey Boughton, Tom Gorton, Noel Gorton, Greg Dodd

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks at this time.

3. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Noel Gorton, 578 Creston Road – She reviewed the roads that are on the list of overlays for the 2008 season and asked the committee to please reevaluate Aluminum Drive, North Hilltop, Monte Vista and Riverside Road. She feels they only need a little bit of patching but not overlays. She saw a county truck and pup going down Creston Road, as they were working on Mennonite Church, and felt the truck should go down Mennonite Church down Hwy 35 to town for more gravel, as the time was 3:00 pm. She then followed the truck back down Creston Road, across to Riverside Road, out onto Hwy 35, down to Hwy 82, turned onto Lower Valley Road. She stated that out of nowhere another county vehicle appeared with two county employees, they all pulled over and approached her vehicle asking her what she if there was a problem. She stated there wasn't a problem, that she was just following the county vehicle, she identified herself and stated the reason she was following the county vehicle. She stated it didn't make sense why the truck was taking the long way back to the shop or gravel pit. She stated one employee's name was Jay, the truck driver's name was Mike, and thought the supervisor's name was Ted. She said the driver stated that he felt he was being stalked, he was fearful and called his supervisor to meet him in the middle of nowhere for reinforcements, rather than going to the shop. She feels there isn't any leadership for the employees. She stated it was 56 minutes that the employee "fooled around", and she stated she has this all on video tape.

Whitey Boughton, Lupfer Road – He questioned the work being done on the Canyon Creek Road and who is paying for the road to be upgraded and paved. Mike Schlegel replied that that is a Forest Service project and not a county one. He continued to ask about the power pole still next to the road on Lupfer Road and if Mike Pence discussed this with Deputy County Attorney Jonathan Smith. Mike Pence replied that utility companies have legal easement to be in the right-of-way. Whitey Boughton stated the county should move the road then, because he didn't feel he should have to pay for moving the pole if the county isn't. Mike Pence asked Whitey about cutting all the trees that are just as close to the road as the power pole. Whitey felt the county should take all the trees down.

Mark Gluth, 1068 McMannamy Draw – He asked if the committee had read the articles in the Daily Interlake about the dust study done in the North Fork. He felt the study is appropriate for all gravel roads. The second article was the Commissioners response, which he felt is a broken record of their response, which is too many roads and too little money. He wanted to draw the attention of the committee to the agenda items. He felt the committee was not set up to review overlays. He continued on to the second item of the agenda about the Committee Report to the Commissioners. He questioned the Road Departments idea about doing a perspective share program for dust abatement. He asked that the committee strike the share program for dust abatement because the residents are not second class. He wanted to know why not have share cost programs for overlays also. He would like the committee to consider having criteria that would prioritize the roads. He was still concerned about the work that had been done on Idaho Hill and the reason it was closed for a week, with it having a low traffic count while other roads with much greater traffic and need were not worked on. He stated he is not suggesting the list he distributed on May 8th to be used to micro manage the Road Department, but felt there is plenty of room to criticize what the Road Department has done.

Tom Gorton, 578 Creston Road - He drew a diagram on the board of the route the county trucks were taking to haul gravel to Mennonite Church Road. He questioned the reason why the trucks were not taking a direct path to and from the Old Steel Bridge Pit and hauling gravel from there, instead of hauling from the Four Corners Pit to Mennonite Church Road. He wanted to know where the cost savings is when Old Steel Bridge Pit is only three miles away and Four Corners Pit is fifteen miles away, especially with the high fuel prices. He did not realize the Four Corners gravel was good enough gravel if the road was going to be paved, but felt it was a waste of time and money by the county. He asked why the gravel from Old Steel Bridge Pit wasn't being used. Dave Prunty replied that it did not have any fines in that material.

Paul Abel, 301 Farm Road – He would like to see the committee include in the criteria the amount of public services that impact gravel roads. He felt the criteria should not just use the road count for the number of residents.

Public comment ended at 7:19 pm.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

David Hilde moved to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2008 meeting. Mike Schlegel seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

5. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

6. Director's Report

a. Peccia's Review of Overlay List

Dave Prunty briefly discussed the overlay list that Ryan Mitchell (Peccia), Ovila Byrd, and he had driven. He stated he followed the recommendation by the Committee of having a third party review. The list of 26 roads were reviewed and Ryan Mitchell put in a brief summary of each of the roads. He stated the Road Department is happy with the results and felt the third party review is a vital tool.

He briefly discussed East Reserve Drive and trying to get the State Highway Department to repair that road under a grant money program. He and Guy reviewed the road with the State and their comment was "worst is not first", meaning the road was too deteriorated for their pavement preservation program. Charles Lapp asked about subdivisions being annexed and what happens with the roads. Dave Prunty stated that a road adjacent to an annexed subdivision or piece of property, the road is also annexed according to state law.

Dave Prunty finished with the Road Department plans to follow the Peccia's report for overlays this year.

Charles Lapp asked about the Star Meadows Road and the RAC spending \$110,000 for work being done on the road. Mike Pence stated it's the Resource Advisory Committee that reviews applications for federal roads to grant a set amount of federal funds for repairs.

He continued to inform the committee that budget drafts with the different cost centers have been submitted to the county and updated information has been submitted to the financial consultant. He stated he is trying to set up a meeting with Miral for the second meeting of July.

Karl Schrade stated his understanding was that the committee was developed because of air quality standards. Mike Pence stated that is one of the reasons, but the commissioners wanted the committee review all the operations of the road department. Karl Schrade questions how overlays fit into the air quality portion of the development of the committee. Mike Pence stated it's a combination of the entirety for the committee to review.

Charles Lapp asked that if dust is the problem and this year's overlay cost is approximately \$800,000 less than last years, is the money going towards dust abatement. Dave Prunty stated the gravel roads have been in serious neglect he would like to commit some of that money to the improvements of adding gravel. He continued with the road department is currently having a study done on how to obtain the best gravel spec, and how do we obtain that spec; i.e. bringing in bentonite, using a stabilizer, mixing material from the landfill, etc. He continued with the road department is trying a new product for dust abatement, with reviews of its results on Ashley Lake Road and Rogers Lake Road for our report back to DEQ.

Dave Prunty briefly relayed that Ryan Mitchell from Peccia feels that crack sealing is good, but Steve Monlux from the Forest Service, that did training for the crew, feels that chip sealing is labor extensive and not a good option. Ryan agrees with chip sealing and feels that the chip sealing is best done the year following the overlay.

b. Discussion Topics for Commissioners Report Continued

Brief discussion was held as to what the best way to spend the money for gravel roads should be used; i.e. dust oil, pavement, double chip sealing, cost sharing program, etc.

Comments were made about changing the Flathead County Road Standards specifications for gravel roads for the county, but leave the paving specs for subdivision developments.

Dave Prunty commented that the road department's goal is to have a five year plan and priority list. He stated that Ovila is working with the operators in their respective areas and rating the gravel roads according to the rating system in the PASER manuals. He stated that Ryan Mitchell felt the PASER system is better than the one he is currently using.

7. Comments from Committee Members

Dave Prunty reminded the committee that Brian Wacker from Peccia will be at the next meeting and to refresh their memories on their information.

Charles Lapp suggested the committee bring some ideas about the concept of some people getting overlays for free, as to whether it's a political thing, budget thing, maintenance thing, etc. He wanted the committee to bring their thoughts and feelings on this issue to the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Mike Schlegel made the motion to adjourn, David Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.